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The water-powered mills of
Allen County, Indiana

The Water-Powered Mills of Allen County, Indiana

Roy M. Bates

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Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

THE WATER-POWERED MILLS
of
ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

Roy M. Bates

"I wandered by the brookside,
I wandered by the mill,
I could not hear the brook flow,
The noisy wheel was still."

—Richard Moncton Milnes.

They are all still; not a single water-powered mill is in operation in Allen County today. From 1827 to 1885 there were thirty-five of these old mills erected along the major streams of this county. They served their purpose well but were eventually forced to yield to the competition of modern equipment and methods, and one by one they gave up the ghost.

Many of these mills were forced to go out of business or install steam equipment, due to the failure of the water supply. In the earlier days, the countryside was quite heavily forested and the watersheds were bordered by low swampy areas. These areas formed reservoirs which withheld supplies of water that gradually fed water into the streams throughout the dry portion of the summer season, allowing milling operations to continue. Tile drainage and the removal of forested areas, resulted in acute water shortages. No swamp areas or shaded leaf-mold are left to retain water from rainfall and thereby regulate its running-off to the streams.

The coming of the twentieth century saw only a few of these mills still carrying on, and by 1912, the lone survivor had ceased operating. Thirty years have elapsed since that time and a visit to any of these mill-sites today will show you how thoroughly the elements and time have erased from the picture practically all evidence of their former existence. With one exception, all mill buildings have been removed from their original sites or have been dismantled. The dams which diverted water for mill operation have all been eradicated. The men who erected these mills have long since passed on. There are a few men and women living who have some knowledge of the details of these mills; some were employed in the mills, others resided in the vicinity; some are descendants of former owners or operators, and it is from these people that we have obtained much of the information presented here.

The story of these water-powered mills constitutes an almost forgotten chapter of our early industrial activity. Those people interested in this subject realize that already considerable information concerning these mills has slipped away from us never to be reclaimed, and that in a few decades much more will have been lost through failure to record the facts while still obtainable from the descendants of the original owners. We must rely on those mentioned above for as many of the details as can be gleaned.

The Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Department of Conservation are vitally interested in preserving as much of the historical background of these water mills of Indiana as can be obtained. It has been our desire to aid in this work locally, and to that end, a small group of Allen County citizens have given many days of their time and have driven many miles to locate those people best able to supply us with the wanted information. Those who have aided unstintingly in this effort are O. R. Kelsey, Donald Smith, and Albert Ginther of Fort Wayne.

Others who have lent valuable assistance are Lindley J. Baldwin, Winifred Randall, Harley Somers, Frank Emrick, Orange Cook, H. A. S. Levering and Louis Centlivre, all of Fort Wayne, Henry Van Hoosen of Aboite Township, Hale Ashley and Theodore Goeglein of St. Joseph Township, August Brenneke of Maumee Township, Charles N. King and Preston Snyder of Marion Township, Louis McCartney of Cedar Creek Township, Charles J. Pepe and Harvey Fitch of Perry Township, and Josiah Adam of Adams Township. The work has been aided and encouraged by Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau and Miss Caroline Dunn, Librarian of the William Henry Smith Memorial Library of Indianapolis.

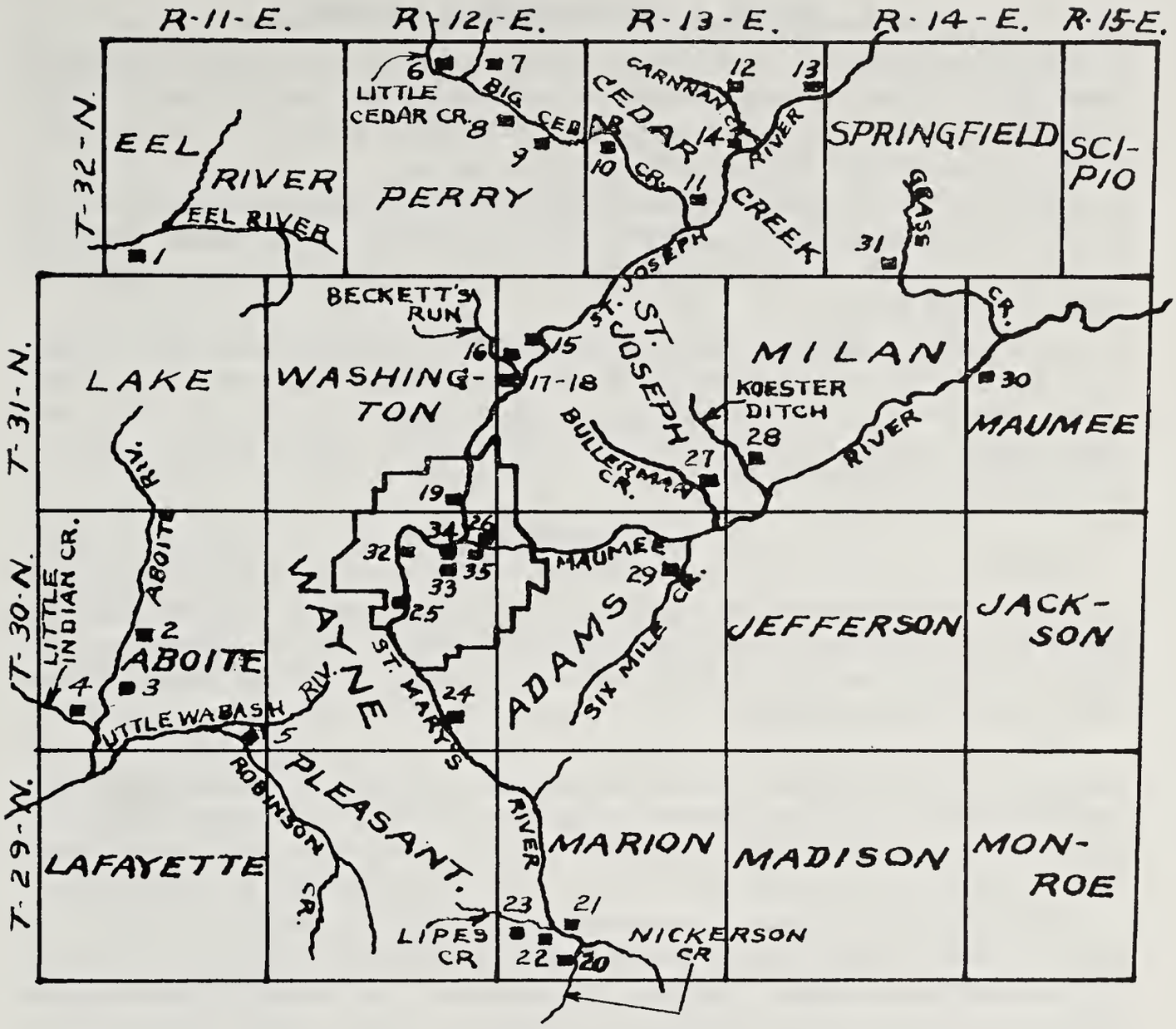
Our efforts have brought to light thirty-five of these water-powered mills formerly operating in Allen County, and we are convinced that this list is complete. Some mills have been reported to us as having used water for power, and which later investigation proved not to be the case. On the following pages we have grouped these mills by watersheds, comprising the principal streams of the county and their tributaries, and in all cases the mills are shown in their order from the headwaters of the stream to its mouth, except the mills deriving their power from the Wabash and Erie Canal, which are listed from west to east.

The major streams and the number of mills located on each are as follows: Eel River, 1 mill; The Little Wabash River (including Aboite River and Indian and Robinson Creeks) 4 mills; Big Cedar Creek (including Little Cedar Creek) 6 mills; The St. Joseph River (including Carnnan Creek and Becketts Run) 8 mills; The St. Marys River (including Nickerson and Lipes Creeks) 6 mills; the Maumee River (including Six Mile Creek, Koester Ditch, Bullerman, and Grass Creeks) 6 mills; and the Wabash and Erie Canal, 4 mills.

The greatest concentration of these mills in Allen County was within the present limits of the city of Fort Wayne and northward along the St. Joseph River and Big Cedar Creek. With one exception no water-powered mills were ever erected in the southeast portion of the county comprising the area lying south of the Maumee River and eastward from the St. Marys River. This was due to the flatness of the land and the sluggishness of the streams.

A census report of Indiana taken in 1840 shows that nineteen water-powered mills were in operation in Allen County at that time, with a total capital investment of $34,400 and the value of the finished products of these mills amounted to $54,000. There were at that time 14 sawmills, 2 grist mills and 3 flouring mills. The same reports show that 2352 water-powered mills were in operation in Indiana at that time; 204 were flour mills, 846 grist mills, 1248 sawmills, and 54 oil mills. This serves to indicate the extent to which water was relied upon for power in those early days. The census of mills taken at that time was based on the type of products produced; for example, if a single establishment sawed lumber and also ground grain, this was treated as two mills, whereas in the following accounts, we have listed them as one unit.

During the months involved in obtaining the data on Allen County water-mills, we have interviewed approximately one hundred and forty persons with some knowledge of the subject. Of this number, Mr. Orange Cook of Fort Wayne is probably the best informed man on water-powered mills in the county. His earlier years were spent in mill operation (see Cedarville Mill) and his knowledge of the subject is thorough. He is the only man in the county that we have been able to locate, who, if called upon, could still dress a mill stone or buhr, and if the occasion demanded, he could supervise the construction of the old type timbered dam. There are several men in the county who could still carry on mill operations and build dams but men in this locality who can dress buhrs are as scarce as skippers of square riggers.



ALLEN COUNTY INDIANA
SHOWING LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL STREAMS AND WATER POWERED MILLS

EEL RIVER

1 SMITH & DEFFENDERFER 1852 - ?

LITTLE WABASH RIVER

2 HAMILTON'S MILL 1853-1865
3 THE BAYLESS MILL 1848-1865
4 THE KELSEY MILL 1853-1860
5 HORNEY ROBINSON'S MILL 1834 - 1860

BIG & LITTLE CEDAR CREEKS

6 THE FITCH MILL 1840 - 1908
7 STONER'S MILL 1834 - 1910
8 THE JASON HATCH MILL 1834-1855-8
9 GLOYD'S MILL 1839-1900
10 VAN ZILES MILL 1858-1896-7
11 THE CEDARVILLE MILL ? - 1911-12

ST. JOSEPH RIVER

12 ZENTNER'S MILL 1885-1897
13 HURSCHTOWN MILLS 1858-1906
14 THE MANNING MILLS 1840-1908
15 THE SWIFT & GOSHORN MILL 1834-1859
16 THE KLINGER & COMPARET MILL 1835 - ?
17 THE JOHNS MILL 1836-1860
18 THE FT. WAYNE PAPER MILL 1866-1890
19 THE RUDISILL MILL 1830-1887

ST. MARYS RIVER

20 THE LIPES MILL 1851-1861
21 MULDOON'S MILL 1840-1869
22 THE CODY MILL 1871-1883
23 THE ESSIG MILL 1850-1860
24 STELLHORN'S SAW MILL ? - 1873
25 THE ESMOND MILL 1827-1888

MAUMEE RIVER

26 WINES MILL 1834-1871
27 SHORDON'S MILL 1858-1868
28 BOWER'S MILL ? - 1861
29 TOWNSEND'S MILL 1828- ?
30 THE ASHTON MILL 1836-1865
31 THE PRICE SAW MILL 1859-1880

THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL

32 ORFF'S MILL 1843-1883
33 THE CITY MILLS 1843-1883
34 THE WM. ROBINSON MILL 1842-1873
35 SUMMIT CITY — WOOLEN MILLS 1843-1883

I. SMITH & DIFFENDERFER SAWMILL

Interviews with some of the older residents of Eel River and Lake Townships have failed to uncover any information concerning this mill. About the only available information is found on page 150 of Kingman Brothers' *History of Allen County, Indiana,* published in 1880.

This was a sash sawmill and was erected in 1852 by Smith & Diffenderfer on the Eel River, at the village of Heller's Corners. Much of the timber fabricated at this mill was used in the building of new homes, that were being erected to replace the log houses.

The mill was situated in the northeast quarter of Section 31, Eel River Township, on land owned by Samuel Diffenderfer, and, after a few years of operation, it was abandoned and the building soon deteriorated and was eventually torn down. Peter Heller erected a steam grist mill in 1855 a short distance from the Smith & Diffenderfer mill.

II. HAMILTON'S MILL

William Hamilton purchased a tract of land in Section 17, Aboite Township in 1833, and twenty years later erected the second sawmill in the township; the first being erected by Lott S. Bayless. Hamilton's Mill was located on the right (west) bank of the Aboite River, near the intersection of the present Aboite Center and Hamilton Roads.

Mr. Henry Van Hoosen, a life-long resident of Aboite Township, now 84 years of age, has supplied us with information regarding the Hamilton, Bayless and Kelsey Mills. Mr. Van Hoosen is a nephew of William Hamilton and is the oldest native of the township now residing within its borders. Mr. Van Hoosen's father, Nathaniel, erected the first cabin in Aboite Township for Benjamin Rogers.

The Hamilton Mill was a two-story frame structure, 50x30 feet in size and equipped with a single upright saw. The building stood at the right abutment of the dam, which was 300 to 350 feet in length and 5 feet in height. The race was very short and the mill equipment was powered by a large wooden turbine wheel.

Mr. Hamilton was the only operator of the mill during its existence and much of the mill's output of lumber was taken to the Wabash and Erie Canal about two and a half miles to the south and shipped to Fort Wayne. The mill quit business about 1865 and the building stood until about 1870, when a flood washed the building from its foundation, against a nearby bridge after which the building was dismantled.

Mr. Hamilton was very active and served as trustee of the township for many years.

III. THE BAYLESS MILL

The Bayless sawmill was erected in 1848 by Lott S. Bayless on his land in the southeast quarter of Section 20, Aboite Township, just west of the present Hamilton Road.

The building, two stories in height, was situated on the left bank of the Aboite River and was equipped with an upright saw and a track and car for the conveyance of logs.

The dam, which was about 300 feet in length and 5 feet in height, was located about one quarter mile above the mill and was constructed of timbers about 18 inches square.

The mill was powered at first with a large over-shot wheel, which proved to be too large for the available water and later a smaller wheel was installed. After a few years of operation, a small stone feed grinder was added to the mill's equipment, on which corn and oats were ground for feeding livestock.

On June 1, 1860, the mill was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt, after which Alexander Holmes, brother-in-law of Mr. Bayless, took over its operation. About 1865 or 1866, the dam was washed out by spring freshets, and the mill ceased its operations. The building stood for many years before it was torn down.

Lott S. Bayless was a brother of Sol D. Bayless, prominent attorney of Fort Wayne. He became a Commissioner of Allen County and later was appointed Land Agent at Yankton, Dakota Territory. He later operated a large fruit farm near Benton Harbor, Michigan, at which plase he died August 4, 1887.

The Bayless home was located a short distance north of the mill. The home still stands and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Borgman, who have restored the home to its original condition, and have named it "Raggedy Pines."

IV. THE KELSEY MILL

The Kelsey sawmill was located on Little Indian Creek a short distance from its confluence with the Aboite River. It was in the southeast quarter of Section 30, Aboite Township, on the former Raccoon Indian Reservation, that James Kelsey erected this mill in the year 1853.

The building consisted of a platform about 50 feet by 30 feet, with a roof and no siding and was equipped with an upright or "muley" saw, which was powered by a wooden turbine wheel, whose operation seems to have been interfered with at times by the many muskrats frequenting the water of Little Indian Creek.

The dam was located about 160 feet upstream from the mill, and was about 200 feet in length and 7 or 8 feet in height. It was constructed of earth, rock and debris and although of fair size it was unable to supply sufficient water for full time operation of the mill.

The product of this mill was used almost entirely by the Kelsey family and a few residents in the neighborhood. James Kelsey was assisted at times in the mill by his father, William, and brothers Jonathan, David, Aaron, and Joseph.

The mill ceased to operate after 1860, probably because of the water supply problem, but the building stood until about 1875, when it was dismantled and the equipment was sold for scrap iron.

V. HORNEY ROBINSON'S MILL

Thomas Robinson came with his son, Horney, to Wayne Township in the year 1826. The following year Thomas died, and Horney purchased 80 acres of land. Later he sold his holdings in Wayne Township and, in 1834, acquired land in what is now Aboite Township, where he took up residence and remained there until his death, July 22, 1887, at the age of 81 years.

After moving to his new location (1834), Mr. Robinson immediately erected a small sawmill on Lost Creek, a small tributary of the Little Wabash River. This stream, afterwards known as Robinson Creek, flowed through Mr. Robinson's land, which at the time of purchase, was located in a small corridor of territory, afterwards assigned to Pleasant Township. Later township boundary adjustments allocated this corridor to Aboite Township and the mill site was located in what is now the southwest quarter of Section 36.

Mr. Robinson was the sole owner of the mill during its 26 years of operation (1834-1860), and much of the mill's output of lumber was shipped to Fort Wayne on the Wabash and Erie Canal, to be used in the many new buildings being erected in that period of the town's expansion.

The mill stood on the right (east) bank of Robinson Creek, about 30 rods south of the present Lower Huntington Road, at the east abutment of the dam. The building was small, being about 25x40 feet in size and was equipped with an

upright or "muley" saw, powered by an undershot wheel. The dam, which was the earth-fill type, was 300 feet long and 5 feet high, and on its crest many willow trees were planted to aid in the prevention of washouts.

The building of steam sawmills with improved equipment, in and near Fort Wayne, caused the abandonment of the Robinson Mill in 1860. The mill building gradually fell into a bad state of repair and was dismantled about 1870. The remains of the dam are plainly visible today.

Horney Robinson's land was later purchased by his step-son, Nelson Barrett, and afterward was acquired by John Carson.

Mr. Max Branstrator, of Fort Wayne, who resided for many years in the vicinity of the Robinson Mill, has given us much of this information.

VI. THE FITCH MILL

This mill and the Manning Mill at Hamilton (Leo) both began operations in the year 1840 and quit business in 1908, a record of 68 years of continuous operation, being exceeded only by Stoner's Mill, which operated continuously for 76 years, the latter holding the record for the county.

Harry Fair erected a carding mill on Little Cedar Creek in 1840. Little Cedar is a tributary of Big Cedar Creek, and the waters of the two streams merge in Perry Township about three quarters of a mile south of the Dekalb County line. The mill stood on the left bank of the stream, a short distance above its mouth, in the northeast quarter of Section 4.

The dam, about 65 feet in length and 4 feet in height, was situated in Dekalb County, about one mile upstream from the mill. The mill race serving this mill was the longest of any of the county.

The building was two stories in height and 40x20 feet in size. It was powered by an over-shot wheel. The mill was moved downstream and the race lengthened, after trouble developed with the water supply. Shortly after the mill was built it was purchased by Nathaniel Fitch, who erected a saw mill adjacent to the carding mill.

The saw mill was a one-story building, 60x20 feet. Its equipment consisted of an upright saw, which was later replaced by a circular saw, and a 6-foot turbine wheel which remains on the site today.

The carding mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870 and the saw mill was afterward operated by Mathias Fitch, son of Nathaniel, who installed a feed-grinder and continued the mill's operation until its abandonment in 1908. The carding mill building is now serving as a stock barn on the farm of John Fitch, who has given us the above information. A portion of the saw mill fell down and the remainder was dismantled.

VII. STONERS MILL

(Known also as the Shryock Mill)

This mill operated continuously for 76 years (1834-1910), the longest service record among the 35 water-powered mills of Allen County.

Blair & Wines erected the mill in 1834, on the line between Sections 3 and 4 of Perry Township, a little less than one mile south of the Dekalb County line, on the right (west) bank of Big Cedar Creek, and near the Old Coldwater Road (now U. S. Highway 27). The mill was situated very near the confluence of Little Cedar and Big Cedar Creeks.

This was the first water-powered mill erected in Perry Township and was equipped only for sawing lumber by means of an upright saw. It is supposed that Blair and Wines were aided in their venture by outside capital. The following year (1835), Samuel Shryock acquired the mill and purchased a set of buhrs at

Dayton, Ohio, after which, he did custom grinding. Prior to the installation of the buhrs, an 18-inch corn-cracker had been installed, which later proved to be very unsatisfactory. Mr. Shryock operated the mill until 1850 or 1851, when John Stoner became the proprietor. After a number of years of operation by Stoner, George Kell assumed ownership and installed the "Roller-Process" for milling flour. After Kell, came Jacob Snyder and a partner, whose name we do not know. The last operator of the mill was William Freese, brother of Charles Freese, a prominent Fort Wayne business man. Mr. Freese closed the mill about 1910.

The mill building was very large, being 125 feet in length and 50 feet wide. It was of frame construction, two and a half stories in height. The mill sat astride the race, which was almost a mile in length. Water was impounded by a dam, located to the north in Dekalb County. The dam was about 100 feet in length and 6 feet high, and was constructed of timbers, rock and debris. A reservoir was constructed near the dam to insure a good supply of water.

Prior to the installation of the roller-process, the mill was equipped with two 4-foot stone buhrs, one being used for wheat, the other for corn grinding.

The building stood for many years after its abandonment and was eventually torn down. The channel of Big Cedar Creek was deepened by dredging in 1916, and in the following year the dam was destroyed by spring freshets.

The country surrounding Stoners Mill is quite scenic, so the mill site became a very popular picnic ground. Groups came from Fort Wayne and other nearby towns to spend Sundays and holidays amid the beauties of the Cedar Creek Hills. Shortly after the closing of the mill, some Fort Wayne citizens became interested in purchasing the site for recreation grounds, to be known as "Old Farm Garden," but the project failed to materialize.

Mr. John Fitch of Perry Township, and Mr. Willard W. Clark of Fort Wayne, have aided us in the preparation of this account.

VIII. THE JASON HATCH MILL

Jason Hatch cleared some land in the northeast portion of Perry Township and in 1834 built a sash sawmill on the right (south) bank of Big Cedar in the southeast quarter of Section 10.

Not much is known of this mill. Kingman's *History of Allen County* merely gives the date of its erection. The only person whom we have been able to find with some knowledge of its existence is Mr. Harvey Fitch, a resident of Huntertown, who is now 88 years of age, and who as a boy spent considerable time in the vicinity of the mill site.

The dam serving the mill was a frail structure built of brush, gravel and debris, and required constant repair, due to the ravages of ice and high waters. It was about 70 feet long and 3 to 4 feet high. The site of this dam has for years been a favorite swimming hole and the site is now referred to as Miller's Dam, so named for the last operator of the mill. The mill was shut down some time between 1855 and 1858 and, Mr. Fitch says that in later years, the mill was equipped with a corn-cracker. Some traces of the dam abutments are still visidle.

IX. GLOYD'S MILLS

(Known also as Vandolah's Mills and Cedar Creek Mills)

The land on which this mill was situated was purchased from the government in 1832 by James Vandolah, on his first visit to Perry Township, for the purpose of locating a desirable site for a sawmill. After purchase of the land, he returned to his home in Ohio. In 1835, he came back to the township and commenced work on the mill, completing it in 1839.

Successive owners of the mill throughout its 61 years of continuous operation, were George Gloyd; Jerome, son of George Gloyd; Edwin, brother of Jerome Gloyd; James Tucker, a former employee of Vandolah; and Jerome Bleekman, who purchased the mill in 1896. The later is the father of Arthur Bleekman, who has resided near the mill site for many years, and to whom we are indebted for much of the data concerning this mill. Mr. Eli Garman, a life long resident of the vicinity, has also given us much assistance.

The mill was located in the northeast quarter of Section 14, Perry Township, on the right (south) bank of Big Cedar Creek, where the Old Auburn Road crosses the stream by means of a long cork screw bend. The site is picturesque, being situated in one of the most scenic areas of Allen County, where Big Cedar Creek cuts a deep gorge through the broad Wabash moraine.

The sawmill was housed in a small one-story frame building and a short time after its erection, a two-story frame grist mill was built adjacent to it on the north. The latter building was about 60 feet by 40 feet in size.

The dam, about 200 feet in length and 7 feet high, was located a considerable distance upstream from the mill. The mill race, which was about a third of a mile long, supplied power to both mills. The sawmill, which was equipped with an upright saw, was abandoned during the ownership of Jerome Gloyd.

The grist mill was equipped with three four and a half foot French buhrs, one of which now reposes on the lawn of the Arthur Bleekman home nearby. One buhr was used for processing flour, another was used for grinding cornmeal, and the third was used for grinding chop feed. The mill was powered by one large over-shot wheel and an immense turbine wheel which now lies buried in the silt and sand on the mill site.

The mill was discontinued in 1900 and considerable damage was inflicted on the buildings by floods and ice before being dismantled in 1922.

X. VAN ZILE'S MILL

A sash sawmill was erected about 1858 by John Van Zile on the right (south) bank of Big Cedar Creek, a short distance east of the present State Road 427. This is in the northwest quarter of Section 19, Cedar Creek Township. Shortly after the mill's erection Mr. Van Zile added some equipment for wool carding, but later sold this portion of the business to Patrick Murphy of Hamilton (Leo).

Ten years after the erection of the sawmill, Van Zile hired Lant Griffin, a millwright, to build a grist mill, which was completed in 1869. It was a two story frame building 60x50 feet in size. Samuel Grush was employed as a miller for many years and George Surfus at one time rented and operated the mill. Shortly after 1890, Mr. Van Zile sold the mill to a man named Fry. For several years prior to this transaction Mr. Van Zile was engaged in the manufacture of washing machines at the mill, but this venture proved to be a financial failure. Mr. Fry closed the mill about 1896 or 1897 and, in the year 1900, the dam was destroyed by flood waters. The grist mill building was moved in 1905 to the farm of Fred Devenger, about two miles to the southeast, and is now being used as a stock barn. Just when the sawmill building collapsed is not known.

The two mills were served by separate races, the water being diverted by a timbered dam about 125 feet long and 6 feet high. The grist mill was equipped with three 5½ foot French buhrs. One was used for chop feed, one for wheat flour and the third was used for grinding corn. The buhrs were originally powered with an overshot wheel, but at a later date, this was replaced by two turbine wheels.

Some traces of the mill race can still be seen and when the water in the creek is low and clear, a few timbers of the dam are visible in the bed of the stream.

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Mr. Willard Moss of Perry Township and Mr. Lewis McCartney of Cedar Creek Township, life-long residents in the neighborhood of the mill, have supplied us with the above information.

XI. THE CEDARVILLE MILL

Of the many mills deriving their power from Big Cedar Creek, this one was situated nearest to the stream's confluence with the St. Joseph River. It was located at the village of Cedarville, on the left (north) bank of the creek, in the northeast quarter of Section 28, Cedar Creek Township.

The first of the two mills to stand upon this site was the Carter and Haines flouring and saw mill. Just when this mill was erected is not known, but according to the Breckenridge survey of 1860, the capital investment amounted to $6,000. During that year, 11,000 bushels of grain were processed and 300 logs were sawed. The finished products were valued at $11,348. This mill was destroyed by fire about 1861 or 1862.

The second mill was erected by Jerry Miller in 1863. Some time afterward he sold the business to a man by the name of Timbrook, whose son James later operated the mill. James Timbrook and Josiah Roller then formed a partnership, under the firm name of Timbrook and Roller. About 1880, Timbrook withdrew from the business and Eugene Cook and Mr. Roller entered into partnership doing business as Cook and Roller. They closed the business about 1911 or 1912.

Mr. Orange Cook of Fort Wayne, son of Eugene Cook, assisted his father at the mill for many years. As a school boy he would return home from classes, change clothes, go to the mill and carry on operations until 10:00 or 11:00 P. M. by the aid of kerosene lantern light. One night, when working alone at the mill, a dynamite cap that had fallen into the grain, caused a violent blast when it came in contact with the buhrs, doing considerable damage to the equipment and creating a lot of excitement at the village—a rather harrowing experience for any lad. We are obligated to this school-boy miller for information concerning this mill.

The mill building was a large frame structure, two and one-half stories in height, 80 feet long and 70 feet wide. The grist mill was equipped with three 5½-foot French buhrs, one used for chopping feed and two for processing flour.

The dam was 140 feet in length and 6½ feet high, of heavy timber construction, with a stone foundation, and firmly anchored at the abutments by immense stone-filled cribs. The dam was destroyed by flood waters and ice in 1899, and was immediately rebuilt. The head race was 40 feet wide at the inlet, gradually reduced to 30 feet at the mill. The mill sat astride the forebay which was 24 feet wide. The mill equipment was powered by four 6-foot wheels and one 8-foot wheel, all of the tub type. Lumber was cut with a circular saw.

The old Cedarville Mill was a landmark for many years, and was torn down in 1912, after having outlived its usefulness, A new low log dam was erected in 1936 on the site of the former dam, which had gradually deteriorated after the abandonment of the mill.

XII. ZENTNER'S MILL

George Zentner erected a sawmill in 1885 on Stevichs Run (now known as Carnnan Creek, a small stream flowing into the St. Joseph River near Hamilton (Leo). The mill was located two miles north of Hamilton in the southeast quarter of Section 3, Cedar Creek Township, about a quarter of a mile east of the Lochner Road.

When a young woman, Mrs. William Foltz of Spencerville, Indiana, assisted her father, George Zentner, with many tasks about the mill and we are indebted to her for the information here given.

The mill was situated on the left (north) bank of the stream and was

equipped with an upright saw. Later a circular saw was installed. The mill stood adjacent to the dam, which was about 40 feet long and 6 feet in height, and spanned a gully. The building was a one-story frame structure, which was only partially sided. There was not sufficient water for full-time operation, and about 1897, the lack of water forced Mr. Zentner to abandon the mill, after which he erected a steam mill, which he operated for a few years. He moved to Texas about 1913, where he died.

XIII. HURSCHTOWN MILLS

(Known also as the Urbana Mills)

The J. C. Hursch and Co. Flouring and Sawmill was located in the center of Section 12, Cedar Creek Township on the right (north) bank of the St. Joseph River.

Some conflict regarding the date of erection of this mill has persisted. After careful check, we are reasonably certain that it was built prior to 1858. The Breckenridge Survey of 1860 places the capital investment of this mill at $7,000, and shows that 17,500 bushels of grain were processed and 400 logs were cut, the value of the mill's products for that year amounting to $19,716.

There were two mill buildings, one housing the grist equipment, and the other a sawmill. They were erected by John C. Hursch. Some time later, his son, Christ, assumed operations. Martin L. Moudy purchased the mill in 1879 and, after a few years, John Stofer entered into partnership with Mr. Moudy. These men continued as owners until the mills were closed.

The grist mill was a three-story frame structure, 60 feet by 40 feet in size. The sawmill was a one-story building of about the same dimensions as the grist mill.

The dam was of heavy timber construction, 150 feet in length and 6½ feet high, supplying water to a short mill race that passed first under the sawmill, then under the grist mill. The sawmill was equipped with a circular saw, powered by a 6-foot tub type wheel. The grist mill's equipment consisted of three 5½-foot French buhrs. Two of these were dressed for flour and one for corn, and were powered by three 4-foot cast tub wheels.

Mr. Clem Treece of Fort Wayne worked for many years at the Hurschtown sawmill. Mrs. Treece is the daughter of Martin L. Moudy, last owner of the mill and later a Commissioner of Allen County. From them we have obtained the information here given.

The sawmill quit business in 1900 and was dismantled. The grist mill closed six years later, after which the building was removed to the farm of Henry Walters on the Campbell road in Section 4 of Springfield Township, where it is now doing service as a stock barn.

The Hurschtown dam was later destroyed by ice and flood waters.

XIV. THE MANNING MILLS

(Known also as the Leo Mills, and Maxfield Mills)

William Maxfield of Hamilton (Leo) has in his possession a copy of an agreement between the State of Indiana and John Manning, Sr., dated January 29, 1839, whereby the latter was authorized to erect a mill dam in the St. Joseph River at Leo in Cedar Creek Township in the southeast quarter of Section 15.

Mr. Manning commenced work on the dam and a sash sawmill in 1839, completing them the following year. In 1839, E. L. Knight opened a store in the half-completed mill building. Shortly after the completion of the sawmill, Mr. Manning erected a woolen mill, which was a three-story frame building 36 feet by 60 feet in size. He then dismantled the sawmill, and erected on the site a four-story grist mill, which was 40 feet wide and 60 feet long. Patrick Murphy, a

weaver, acquired an interest in the woolen mill from Mr. Manning. Some time afterward, Mr. Manning sold the grist mill and his interest in the woolen mill to Winch and Achley, who in turn, disposed of their interests to Orange Maxfield, the father of William Maxfield. The partnership of Maxfield and Murphy did not last long. The dissolution gave Mr. Murphy the woolen mill equipment, which he moved to Auburn, Indiana, where he continued in the business until his death, while Mr. Maxfield assumed complete ownership of the building formerly occupied by the woolen mill, which in 1880 collapsed during a high wind. The partnership of Maxfield & Dever operated the grist mill for many years.

The dam was a timbered structure, about 150 feet in length and 7 feet high, which diverted water into a forebay 150 feet long, 22 feet wide and 7 feet in depth. The woolen mill was the first in line to receive power and sat opposite the north dam abutment. It was equipped originally with a 6-foot tub wheel, which was later replaced by a 5-foot wheel of the same type. The grist mill was situated about 100 feet to the west, and was served by the same water that operated the woolen mill. The grist mill's equipment consisted of three 5½-foot French buhrs, which were powered by three tub wheels.

Business at the grist mill was suspended in 1908, and the building fell into a bad state of repair and finally collapsed. The dam, which was afterward destroyed by ice and flood waters, was rebuilt in 1936, with the assistance of the government's low log dam construction program.

XV. THE SWIFT AND GOSHORN MILL

In June, 1834, a large dam was erected in the St. Joseph River about six miles north of Fort Wayne, to provide a water supply for the Wabash and Erie Canal. This water was conveyed to the main canal at Fort Wayne by means of a feeder, which was commonly known as the Feeder Canal. The dam has always been referred to as the Feeder Dam.

This dam was about 225 feet in length and almost 17 feet high and raised the level of water in the river for a distance of about six or seven miles upstream. It was situated in the southwest quarter of Section 8, St. Joseph Township, a short distance below Robinson Park, a famous resort established many years later.

Jacob Swift and Jacob Goshorn were both civil engineers who had assisted in the construction of the Grand Reservoir at Celina, Ohio. Shortly after the completion of the Feeder Dam, these men erected a sawmill on the right (west) abutment of the dam. The building was a long one-story affair, which spanned the mill race and was powered by a large over-shot wheel. The mill's equipment consisted of an upright saw and, in after years, a set of buhrs was added, for processing grain, which proved to be an unsuccessful venture, largely because of the inaccessibility of the mill.

Alpheus Swift afterward operated the mill and was followed by Fred Goshorn, who closed the mill about 1858 or 1859, as other mills in this area were more convenient. The club-house of the Fort Wayne Beagle Club now occupies this site.

Mr. Kenneth Swift, grandson of Jacob, and son of Alpheus Swift, has furnished us with the above information.

XVI. THE KLINGER AND COMPARET MILL

Jessie Klinger came from Pennsylvania in 1829 and settled on the Richardville Reservation on the St. Joseph River in St. Joseph Township.

Mr. Klinger and a man named Comparet erected the first sawmill in St. Joseph Township on Bechetts Run (now Bobay Creek), in 1835. The mill was located in Section 7 about a quarter mile east of the present State Road 1 bridge over Bobay Creek.

There is no further information available about this mill. It is thought that

its existence was short. Mr. Klinger died in 1835 and Mr. Comparet continued the mill's operation.

XVII. THE JOHNS MILL

This mill was located on the right (west) bank of the St. Joseph River, a few rods south of the St. Joseph Center Road Bridge, commonly known as the Paper Mill Bridge. It was situated in the south portion of the former Richardville Indian Reservation, in the southeast quarter of Section 18, St. Joseph Township.

We have been unable to find any residents of the vicinity with knowledge of this mill. However, Mr. H. A. S. Levering, of Fort Wayne, who has done considerable research in land ownership in the area north of Fort Wayne, has given us some very interesting information regarding acquisition of land for the mill's use.

Early in the year 1834, Thomas Castor sold to John Spencer and Elisha B. Harris, a seven-acre strip of land for mill purposes, located between the St. Joseph River and Feeder Canal in the section and township above mentioned. On March 7, 1834, Harris assigned his interests to Spencer. By this transaction, Harris was permitted to remove the timber on the land for the erection of a saw mill and dam, and to construct a bridge over the Feeder Canal. Apparently he made no improvements of any kind on the property. On January 6, 1835, John Spencer and his wife, Ruth, conveyed the land to Henry Johns, the father-in-law of Henry Rudisill. Mr. Johns owned 400 or 500 acres in the vicinity from which timber for the mill was obtained. The mill was afterwards operated by William Augustine and was discontinued shortly after 1860.

Mr. Louis Rossellot, age 77, who has been a life-long resident of the vicinity, informs us that there are two stone buhrs submerged in the river at the site of the dam and that these buhrs were a part of the Johns mill equipment. These buhrs were visible before the erection of the municipal water intake and dam one and a half miles downstream, which raised the water level of the St. Joseph River at this point.

A few years later, the Fort Wayne Paper Mills were erected on the site of the Johns Mill.

XVIII. FORT WAYNE PAPER MILLS

The first paper mill to be put into operation in Allen County was erected on the site of the Johns Mill in 1866, by N. B. Freeman, Samuel Bard, and a Mr. Dobolinski. The mills were known as the Fort Wayne Paper Mills and the partnership was known as Dobolinski, Freeman & Bard. However, in 1867, Mr. Dobolinski withdrew from the business and shortly thereafter, A. G. Barnett entered the partnership. The Fort Wayne City Directory of 1868-69 lists the firm name as Freeman, Bard & Barnett, with depot, offices, and salesroom at 51 Columbia Street.

Mr. Louis Rossellot, whom we have previously mentioned, was employed as an engineer at the Fort Wayne Paper Mills for 20 years (1870-1890), and from him we have been able to obtain much information pertaining to the mill's equipment.

The mill was so equipped that power could be obtained from steam boilers or by water from the St. Joseph River. The buildings, two stories in height, were of "L" shaped frame construction, one section being about 40x60 feet in size, the other portion was 25x80 feet. The dam, which served the mill, was about 225 feet long and 8 feet high, and was built on the site of the dam used by the former Johns Mill. The mill race was short, probably about 250 feet long and 14 or 15 feet wide and was lined with rock. Power was derived from an 8-foot turbine wheel.

The equipment consisted of two large paper making machines, which re-

quired two tons of straw at each charge and produced a net of 1800 to 2000 pounds of "news print" paper per day, which was the principal product of the mill.

The plant also manufactured a paper with rag content for book printing and, in later years, produced a fine grade of wrapping paper.

Charles J. Connelley, who for a time served as foreman of the mill, was accidentally drowned April 1, 1870, when his boat went over the dam. The body was not found until some time after the accident.

The mills were almost totally destroyed by fire April 30, 1871, resulting in a loss of $25,000, but were again placed in operation on May 9 of the following year. Shortly after the fire, the mills were purchased at sheriff's sale by William Fleming, at that time Treasurer of the State of Indiana, and father of Stephen Fleming, prominent present day Fort Wayne business man. The mills were badly damaged by the flood of February, 1887 but Mr. Fleming continued operations until 1890, when the mill was closed. In later years, the mill was referred to as the Fleming Paper Mills.

XIX. THE RUDISILL MILL

(Known also as the Johns Mill and St. Joe Mill)

In the autumn of 1830, Henry Rudisill and Henry Johns erected a flouring mill on the right, or west, bank of the St. Joseph River in the southwest quarter of Section 36, Washington Township. At the time of the mill's erection, it was located about three-quarters of a mile north of the village of Fort Wayne on what is now Spy Run Avenue, then known as the east branch of the Lima Road. The site of the mill is directly across the street from the present Indiana Service Corporation's shops.

Henry Rudisill was born in 1801 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania and came to Fort Wayne as a representative of Barr & McCorkle, of Baltimore, Maryland, who prepared the original plat of the City of Fort Wayne.

When the mill was built, many residents of the township aided in its construction, by freely donating their labor. The dam, which was located near the present State Street Bridge, was built almost entirely by such volunteer help under the supervision of David Bush. The dam was constructed of huge squared timbers and filled in with rock, gravel and other debris and was situated about 300 feet above the mill building.

This mill began operations with but one set of buhrs, which was increased in later years to four sets. The mill was generally known as the "Johns Mill," until the death of Mr. Johns, when the sole ownership passed to Mr. Rudisill. Mr. Rudisill died February 6, 1858, and ownership of the mill passed to his son, H. J. Rudisill, Jr., who continued its operation until 1866, when he moved to California, leaving the operation of the mill in the hands of John E. Hill, Jr., who later formed the John E. Hill, Jr., Co.

From the time of its erection until about 1880 the mill was equipped with an over-shot wheel, after which Leffel and Little Giant wheels were installed. The mill produced about sixty-five barrels of flour per day and employed about seven men. During the flood of February, 1876, the dam was severely damaged but was soon repaired and the mill again placed in operation.

John H. Bass and Oscar Simons purchased the mill property November 4, 1879, and a few years later the Water Works Committee of the City of Fort Wayne recommended that the City of Fort Wayne condemn the property for its water rights but were restrained from doing so by the owners on September 11, 1884. The question of a new city water supply was a paramount issue at the time.

In the fall of 1887, Bass & Simons completed the rebuilding of the dam, placed heavy walls in the mill race and made other repairs to the property. On November 25, of the same year, the property was purchased by the Jenny Electric

Light and Power Co., along with the entire canal feeder for the sum of $67,000.

The mill was shortly afterwards abandoned but the building was not demolished until early in the present century. One of the stone buhrs of this mill now reposes on the premises of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society Museum.

XX. THE LIPES MILL

Nickerson Creek is a small stream that joins the St. Marys River about one mile above Williamsport (Poe) in Marion Township. About three-quarters of a mile above the mouth of this stream, David and Andrew Lipes erected a sawmill about 1851. The mill was situated in the southeast quarter of Section 33, about 800 feet west of the Winchester Road, near the Old Bethel Church and cemetery.

The mill building was located on the left (west) bank of the stream, and was a one-story open building, faced only on the north side, and was 30x18 feet in size. It was so situated that logs could be skidded down an adjacent hill into the mill. In order to obtain sufficient power, the mill was erected about 700 feet below the dam, which was constructed of timbers, stone and gravel, and was about 400 feet in length and 7 feet in height. A 6-foot wooden overshot wheel furnished power for an upright saw.

Operations were discontinued about 1861, and shortly thereafter, the building was dismantled. Outlines of the mill race and some timbers of the dam are still visible on the old mill site.

David Lipes came from Virginia to Marion Township in 1850. He remained there until January 12, 1882, at which time he sold his farm to John Essig and moved to the northwest part of the county. His farm was situated in Eel River and Lake townships. He served as County Commissioner from 1864 to 1869.

We are indebted to Mr. Preston Snyder, aged 82, and a lifelong resident of Marion Township, for information on this and other mills in the locality.

XXI. MULDOON'S MILL

The first of four mills in the vicinity of Williamsport (Poe) was erected by John Depler in 1840, on the right (east) bank of the St. Mary's River, about 400 feet north of the present Poe Bridge. This is in the exact center of Section 29, Marion Township.

This was originally a sawmill and, a short time after its erection, it was purchased by Charles Muldoon, who added some buhrs for grinding grain.

Charles Muldoon was the son of Patrick Muldoon, an early settler on the site of Williamsport, who came to America from Ireland in 1845, his death occurring in 1858.

The mill was situated at the east abutment of the dam, which was about 125 feet in length and 8 feet high and of timber construction. A very short race furnished power for an over-shot wheel, which in turn operated an upright saw.

Charles Muldoon operated the mill until its destruction by fire in 1868 or 1869. Several years later, Maurice Cody erected a new mill on the opposite end of the dam.

XXII. THE CODY MILL

(Known also as the Valley Mills)

Two years after the destruction of the Muldoon Mill, Maurice Cody erected a grist mill on the left (west) bank of the St. Marys River at Williamsport (Poe).

Maurice Cody married Bridget Muldoon, daughter of Charles, and resided in Fort Wayne, where he held the offices of City Marshall and Street Commissioner. His residence was located at the corner of Barr and Superior Streets.

Construction of the mill was aided by many of the residents in the vicinity. It was a very tall building, containing five floors and rising more than 100 feet above the surface of the water at the dam.

The mill was equipped with four French buhrs, one dressed for corn and three for wheat, each powered with a 6-foot wooden tub-type wheel. The dam was the one built for use of the Muldoon Mill.

A. M. Hildebrand was employed by Mr. Cody to operate the mill, which was one of the busiest of the mills of this county, serving farmers from points as distant as Ohio and employing three or four men, oftentimes working day and night.

Early in the 80's, farmers upstream from the mill, complained of damage to their crops, caused by backwater from the mill dam. These farmers took matters into their own hands, raised a fund of $400 for the purpose of hiring a man to dynamite the structure. The deed was perpetrated May 11, 1883, causing $800 damage. Mr. Cody repaired the dam and, on August 6, Deputy Sheriff Thomas Doyle arrested five Adams County farmers for conspiring to destroy the dam.

In the meantime, these farmers, not being satisfied with the job done by their hireling, persuaded him to make a second attempt, and on August 22nd, a terrific explosion not only destroyed the dam but also inflicted damage to the mill building, causing the cessation of business.

On April 9, 1890, Mr. Cody sold the rights to the use of the dam to John Dirkson, William Zwick, and John Morton; by this transaction, the upriver farmers were assured that no further damage would be caused by the possible rebuilding of the dam.

Mr. Cody passed away shortly afterward and, on January 29, 1895, James B. Garth purchased the property from Mr. Cody's widow. The mill building gradually deteriorated and finally in March, 1896, the structure crashed into the river. Some traces of the mill race and dam are visible today.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Preston Snyder of Marion Township and Mr. Harley Somers of Fort Wayne for their assistance in gathering the above information.

XXIII. THE ESSIG MILL

Immediately to the north of Williamsport (Poe), Lipes or Mosquito Creek enters the St. Marys River. About 600 feet above the mouth of this stream is the site of the Essig Mill. This is in the southwest quarter of Section 29, Marion Township, east of the Winchester Road.

This sawmill was erected in 1850 by William Essig, who founded the village of Williamsport (Poe), entering the original plat on October 14, 1848. The mill building was a roofed-over platform, about 30 feet by 20 feet in size, and was boarded up on the north side. It was located on the right (south) bank of the stream at the dam, which was about 25 feet long and 5 feet in height, constructed entirely of walnut timbers. The bridge, which formerly stood near the mill, was also of walnut construction.

The mill was powered by a 6-foot wooden over-shot wheel and equipped with an upright saw. The mill race was very short.

Sawing was discontinued in the autumn of 1860 and shortly afterward the mill was torn down. The advent of the steam mill and the circular saw forced the mill out of business. Some of the buildings, still standing on the Preston Snyder farm south of Williamsport, were built with timbers taken from this mill.

Mr. Preston Snyder and Mr. John N. King, both of Marion Township, have given us information regarding this mill.

XXIV. STELLHORN SAWMILL

Fred Stellhorn, a lime-burner and canal boat operator, purchased in 1860 a tract of land in the south half of Section 26, Wayne Township and immediately took up residence on the property.

A log house and a small water-powered sawmill were on the property when

acquired by Mr. Stellhorn. When the mill was erected is not known, but it was built by a man named Browning.

The mill was situated on the right (east) bank of the St. Marys River, about 1500 feet north of the Stellhorn Bridge, opposite the present Fairview Golf Course, on Fairfield Avenue extended, a short distance south of the City limits of Fort Wayne.

Fred Stellhorn was unable to operate the mill because of ill health brought on as a result of his occupation as a lime-burner, so his eldest son, J. Henry Stellhorn, took charge and continued its operation until 1873, when the mill was forced to discontinue, because of the shortage of water during the summer months. Mr. Stellhorn purchased a steam mill in Fort Wayne and moved it to his farm, locating it on the river bank about 1500 feet south of the old water-powered mill.

The water-powered mill was a one-story frame building located on the east abutment of the dam, and was equipped with a 6-foot upright saw, powered by an overshot wheel. The dam was about 150 feet in length and 6 feet high, and was constructed of heavy spiked timbers and held securely by massive stone work at either end. The mill race was about 200 feet long.

Mr. Charles Stellhorn, brother of J. Henry Stellhorn, was born in 1862 on the Stellhorn farm and lived near there his entire lifetime. At one time he operated the steam mill. We are indebted to him for this information.

Much of the timber cut at the water-powered mill was walnut, as it was very plentiful on the land in the immediate vicinity. J. Henry Stellhorn at one time purchased the timber on 300 acres of land across the river, and so much of it was walnut that it was cut into 2 by 4's and disposed of largely in Fort Wayne.

Nothing remains on the old mill site today. However, some traces of the dam are still visible, and the framework of the old mill building was moved off the site about 1880, to another part of the farm and converted into a granary, which still stands to the east of what is now Calhoun Street extended. The old Stellhorn home, which still stands, was constructed of lumber fabricated at the old mill and, in recent years, it was discovered that the 2 x 4's and siding used in this house are of walnut. A number of years ago, the home was moved from its original site to its present location.

XXV. THE ESMOND MILL

(Known also as the Barnett and Hanna Mill, Fairfield Mill, Beaver Mill and Glenwood Mill)

The first water-powered mill erected in Allen County was completed in August, 1827, by James Barnett and Samuel Hanna. The mill stood on the left bank of the St. Marys River, a short distance south of the present Oakdale Bridge (State Roads 1 and 3) in what is now Foster Park. It was located in the southeast quarter of Section 15, Wayne Township and at the time of its erection was several miles from the village of Fort Wayne.

A few years later, the mill was sold to Louis H. Davis, who later sold the business to Asa Fairfield and Samuel C. Freeman. The former had the distinction of operating the first boat through Fort Wayne on the Wabash and Erie Canal. The business operated under the name of Fairfield and Freeman until the partnership was dissolved and the business purchased by A. C. Beaver, who named the mill "Glenwood."

George Esmond purchased the Glenwood Mill, November 1, 1876, for the sum of $24,000 and operated it until it was completely destroyed by fire, February 27, 1878. On May 31 of the same year, work was begun on Mr. Esmond's new brick mill and it was completed October 1, at a cost of $20,000. It was a three-story building 44x64 feet in size, and equipped with all new machinery. Its power was developed by one 60-inch and two 56-inch turbine wheels capable of produc-

ing from 60 to 80 horsepower. The grinding equipment consisted of one 4-foot and four 3½-foot stone buhrs. The mills employed five men and could produce 80 barrels of flour daily. The mill's storage capacity was 10,000 bushels of grain.

Less than two years after construction of the new mill, on April 26, 1880, the dam was partially destroyed by high water, after which Mr. Esmond converted the mill to steam power. The Esmond Milling Co. was incorporated June 4, 1886, with capital stock of $60,000. On October 4, 1887, Mr. Esmond sold the business to I. S. Tevis of Kentucky and T. S. Proctor of Tennessee. The new proprietors operated the business for a little more than seven months when, on May 15, 1888, the mills were again completely destroyed by fire, with a loss of $40,000, and, after sixty-one years of continuous operation, were never rebuilt. Mr. Charles N. King of Williamsport has in his possession a ledger containing accounts of this mill from 1842 to 1844, during the ownership of Asa Fairfield.

XXVI. WINES MILL

(Known also as the Coles Mill, Woodlawn Mill, Volland Mill)

The exact date of the erection of the David Coles sawmill on the Maumee River is unknown. However, we find that Mr. Coles advertised for a buyer for the mill in the Fort Wayne *Weekly Sentinel's* issue of June 14, 1834. Buyers were apparently scarce, for it was autumn of 1838 before Marshall Wines purchased the property. Shortly after the transaction, Mr. Wines erected a flour mill immediately to the east of the saw mill.

The mill was located between the river and the north bank of the Wabash and Erie Canal at Hanover Street, about three blocks due north of the present Concordia College. The college property and other adjoining land was formerly the estate of Marshall Wines and at the time was known as "Woodlawn." The mill was referred to by the same name. Mr. Wines died in 1842 and, in 1848, "Woodlawn" was purchased by the St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Shortly before his death, Mr. Wines sold the mills to Samuel Hanna and Oehmig Bird, the firm doing business as Hanna & Bird. Changes in the ownership were frequent in the following years. Eli Bostick and Reuben Fronefield purchased the mill in September, 1858, from Hanna & Bird. Bostick & Fronefield did some extensive repairing to the mill, which was completed February 16, 1859. In September of the same year, Mr. Bostick sold his interest to Henry Volland, the firm being designated as Fronefield & Volland. One year later (September, 1860), Mr. Fronefield withdraw from the business and Barney Trentman became Mr. Volland's partner, these men doing business as Trentman & Volland. Mr. Trentman sold his interest to Christian Orff in 1861. Orff & Volland then became the firm's title. Two years later (1863), the mill was taken over by David Comparet and Washington Haskell, operating as Comparet & Haskell. These men did some repairing and erected a new dam at a cost of $5,000, which was located at the site of the present municipal "Hosey" Dam, a short distance west of the Anthony Boulevard Bridge. Several years later, Esther A. Orff purchased the property and was the sole owner, when, on March 24, 1871, the mill was totally destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt.

The mill was a three and a half story building with a capital investment of $6,000, and storage capacity for 20,000 bushels of grain. The equipment consisted of one 5-foot and two 4-foot stone buhrs, powered by three reacting wheels. In its later years, the mill employed about four men, and produced approximately fifty barrels of flour daily.

XXVII. SHORDON'S MILL

Many parcels of Allen County land were deeded to the Wabash and Erie Canal Company by the United States, prior to the canal's construction. One of these

parcels lay in the southeast portion of St. Joseph Township. This land was quite swampy, but is now a very productive region.

Stephen Shordon purchased a tract of this land from the canal company for about $2.50 per acre, and in 1858 and 1859, erected a sawmill on the left (north) bank of Bullerman Creek, a small tributary of the Maumee River that flowed through Mr. Shordon's land. The mill was situated in the southeast quarter of Section 35.

The mill had difficulty operating because of the frequent shortages of water, especially after much of the region had been drained. The building was a small shed-like structure and was located on the north dam abutment. The dam was the earth-fill type, about 300 feet in length and 6 feet high. The very short mill race conveyed water to an overshot wheel, which in turn powered an upright saw. After nine or ten years of interrupted operation, the mill closed down in 1868, because improved mills were erected in this part of the county and there was also difficulty with the water supply. At the time of the mill's destruction by fire in 1869, it was being used as a granary. A considerable portion of the dam, which was subsequently damaged by flood waters, is visible today.

We are indebted to Mr. Theodore Goeglein of St. Joseph Township, present County Commissioner; Mr. Max Vonderau, also of St. Joseph Township; and Mr. John Kern, of Adams Township, for assistance in preparing this information.

XXVIII. BOWERS' MILL

This mill was located on a small stream, now known as Koester Ditch, which drains into the Maumee River. It was on land now owned by Edward Goeglein in the southwest quarter of Section 30, Milan Township.

Very little is known concerning this mill and the information we have been able to obtain, came from Mrs. Edward Goeglein, daughter of Herman Bischoff, who came from Germany and on July 1, 1861, purchased the present Edward Goeglein farm from Joseph and Margaret Bowers.

When Joseph Bowers erected this mill is unknown. It was a saw mill equipped with an upright saw. The building was very small and was situated on the left (east) bank of the stream, a short distance north of the Parent Road bridge. The dam was about 35 feet long and 4 feet in height and the race was very short.

Mr. Bischoff never operated the mill, probably because of the lack of sufficient water and he dismantled the mill shortly after he purchased it. One of the first frame houses erected in the vicinity was built of lumber fabricated at the Bowers Mill. The old house still stands on the Goeglein property.

XXIX. TOWNSEND'S MILL

This is another of the mills about which little is known. History merely relates the fact that it was erected by Joseph Townsend in 1828 on Six-Mile Creek in Adams Township.

Six-Mile Creek is now known as Trier Ditch and the mill stood in the southwest quarter of Section 11. The land was later owned by a man named Miller and in 1839 was purchased by Levi Hartzell, grandfater of Lee. J. Hartzell, prominent Fort Wayne attorney. From all available information, this was probably the second water-powered mill erected in Allen County. It was a primitive sawmill, which was also equipped with a corn-cracker.

Neither Mr. Hartzell nor Mr. Sherman Townsend of Tillman, grandson of Joseph Townsend, could give us any further information regarding this mill.

XXX. THE ASHTON MILL

John Ashton and his son, George, came to Maumee Township in 1836 and immediately erected a dam across the Maumee River, intending to erect a saw mill and later a grist mill.

The mill site was located about one-quarter mile west of the Bull Rapids Road, on the right (south) bank of the river, in the northeast quarter of Section 18.

The sawmill was served with a very short race and was powered by a turbine wheel. Its dam was 300 feet in length and 6 feet in height. The mill's operation, however, was frequently hampered by ice and flood waters.

The intended grist mill was never built however, some work was done on it, but it was never finished. A feed-grinder was later installed in the sawmill building.

In 1865, a heavy flood washed out both the dam and the mill. The remains were dismantled shortly thereafter. So far as we can determine, the Ashtons were the only operators of the mill.

Mr. August Brenneke, President of the Woodburn State Bank, and now in his eighty-fifth year, has kindly furnished us with much of this information.

XXXI. THE PRICE SAWMILL

Most Price came to Springfield Township in 1859, and in the same year erected a sash sawmill on Grass Creek, later known as the Wertz Ditch. The mill was situated about two miles southeast of Harlan, a short distance north of the Notestine Road, in the southwest quarter of Section 35, Springfield Township.

The mill building was a two-story affair. The first floor was constructed of hewn logs, while the second story was faced with dressed lumber. The mill changed ownership on several occasions, the last operator being a man named Miller, who dismantled the structure about 1880, after 21 years of service. The shortage of water was thought to be the cause of discontinuance. Investigation has failed to bring forth any further data regarding this mill.

XXXII. ORFF'S MILL

(Known also as the Edsall Mill, Empire Mill, and The Old Stone Mill)

All of the water-powered mills located on the Wabash and Erie Canal in Fort Wayne, were erected in the period from 1841 to 1845. Orff's Mill was located on the right bank of the St. Marys River immediately north of the present West Main Street Bridge and derived its power from the canal.

When the Wabash and Erie Canal was constructed through Fort Wayne, a considerable amount of land in the western part of the town was owned by William Rockhill, who deeded to the canal company a right-of-way through his land for the canal. He, in turn, received from the company a lease for water rights.

In the years 1842 and 1843, Mr. Rockhill and his partner, Samuel Edsall, erected two saw mills. In July, 1843, Mr. Rockhill withdrew from the partnership and Mr. Edsall started construction on a large grist mill, which was completed two years later. A few rods north of the mill, the waters of the canal were conveyed over the St. Marys River by means of a long covered acqueduct, which for several reasons became the rendezvous for hundreds of young swimmers in the western part of town. The memory of this acqueduct has been perpetuated by the formation in 1912 of the "Old Acqueduct Club," whose membership is composed of those men who, as boys, swam and "chawed beef" within the acqueduct's protective walls. In 1927, a memorial was erected to these young swimmers in nearby Orff Park. Mr. Calvin K. Reimen, of Fort Wayne, now heads this group, whose ranks are rapidly thinning.

Changes of ownership of many of these early mills was frequent and this mill was no exception. Shortly after the erection of the grist mill, Mr. Edsall admitted Millford Smith as a partner, the firm being designated as Smith and Edsall. In 1856, the property was offered for sale and was purchased by a group under the name of Orff, Armstrong & Lacy. Mr. Lacy died shortly after the formation of this partnership. The firm then operated under the title of Orff & Arm-

strong. John Orff acquired Mr. Armstrong's interests in 1858 and continued as the sole owner of the business. A number of years later, the business passed to John Orff's sons, John, Jr., C. E., and Montgomery Orff. The mill was badly damaged by fire in 1888 and on September 11, of the same year, the property was purchased at sheriff's sale by John Orff.

In 1872 Mr. Orff equipped the mill for steam operation, which permitted the use of water or steam for power, until the abandonment of the canal cut off the water supply. The mill's water lease expired in 188. John Orff, Sr., died in 1896, and the mill quit business in 1897. The Orff homestead is now occupied by the Jim Eby Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and is located at the end of West Main Street adjacent to Lindenwood Cemetery.

The Kingman Brothers' *History of Allen County, Indiana,* published in 1880, gives the following account of the mill's equipment at that time: "Until recently, the power has been derived from an overshot wheel. In 1862-63, Mr. Orff built a grain warehouse, immediately east and adjoining the mill, with six bins, with a capacity of 5000 bushels per bin. In 1872, Mr. Orff added a steam engine and such additional machinery as the change required. He did not, however, dispense with the water wheel. He now uses steam or water, as the circumstances may require. In 1876, he built a very commodious office adjoining the grain warehouse. Under the old process, this mill turned out 175 barrels per 24 hours. Under the new, minimum capacity is 175 per 24 hours. The following is an exhibit of the size, capacity and business of this mill: Mill (stone) four and one half stories, 50 feet by 60 feet; Grain Warehouse, first story stone, two stories plank, 40 feet by 45 feet; Grain Warehouse storage capacity 30,000 bushels; number of run of stone, five size of stone, one three foot, four, four and one-half; Number of hands employed, twelve; amount of flour manufactured in 24 hours, 175 barrels; horse power of engine, 100; horse power of wheels, 110; capital invested, $40,000."

XXXIII. THE CITY MILLS

(C. Tresselt and Sons)

Construction of this mill began in 1842 and was completed and put into operation in 1843 by Allen Hamilton and Jessie L. Williams.

It was situated on Lot No. 25, of the original plat of the City of Fort Wayne. The mill site is in the business section of the city, being only one and a half blocks north of the Allen County Courthouse, on the west side of Clinton Street between Superior Street and the Nickel Plate Railroad, former right-of-way of the Wabash and Erie Canal, from which the mill obtained its power.

Some time after the partnership was formed, Mr. Hamilton retired, and Pliny Hoagland entered the business as Mr. Williams' partner, operating as Hoagland and Williams. Other changes in the firm name were Hoagland, Comstock & Co., and Pliny Hoagland & Co. In 1860, Christian Tresselt, a canal boat captain, became a silent partner in the business, and in 1870, the firm changed to Hoagland, Tresselt & Co. In 1872, Mr. Williams withdrew. Later, Mr. Tresselt and his sons, Oscar, Herman and Fred, became sole owners of the business and the Tresselt family continued with the business until the mill was closed in 1920. The mill was powered by water for 40 years, when in 1883, it was suddenly deprived of this mode of operation by the abandonment of the canal. Steam equipment was installed at once and shortly thereafter the "Roller Process" was added.

The building was "L" shaped and of frame construction. The mill equipment occupied three floors, above which were the grain storage bins. The massive beams and girders supporting the structure were of hand-hewn walnut.

When powered by water, the mill's equipment consisted of four French buhrs of unknown size which were powered by an immense overshot wheel, probably 18 or 20 feet in diameter.

This was one of the best patronized mills of the county. Farmers, coming to the city, could do their buying while their grain was being ground. In the early days grain was brought to the mill in ox-carts and other primitive means of conveyance and if the farmer arrived at the mill late in the day, he oftentimes slept during the night in the mill office.

The grain processed in 1860 amounted to 88,000 bushels, valued at $103,000. Eight men were employed at that time and the mill's investment amounted to approximately $25,000.

Mr. Arnold Tresselt, of Fort Wayne, who furnished much of the above information, is the son of Herman Tresselt, the last survivor of the three sons of Christian Tresselt. Herman Tresselt's physical condition was such that an interview was impossible. Mr. Tresselt believes that the four stone buhrs used by the mill are buried on the site, which is now leased as a parking lot by its present owners, the Nickel Plate Railroad. He also informs us that after the mill was discontinued in 1920, all the equipment except the steam engine, was sold sight unseen, through the medium of a Millers' Trade Journal to a Mexican business man and the equipment was shipped and set up in a small town south of Mexico City, Mexico. Whether or not it is operating today is not known. The building was dismantled shortly after the sale of the equipment.

XXXIV. THE WILLIAM ROBINSON MILL

(Known also as Howe's Mill)

William Robinson commenced work in 1841 on a factory for the manufacture of doors, window sash and other wood products, completing the building in 1842.

Several histories give the location of this mill as Lot 6, Eliza Hanna's Subdivision, on the north side of Duck Street. The mill was located west of Clinton Street, a short distance south of the present Indiana National Guard Armory, on land now owned by the City of Fort Wayne, and being used as a municipal automobile parking lot.

The mill derived its power from the Wabash and Erie Canal. The mill race conveying water to this mill was also used by the City or Tresselt Mill and flowed northward from the canal to the Robinson Mill, its course then veered to the east and discharged into the St. Marys River through a stone flume. In the spring of 1940, workmen for the Gargara Company of Detroit, while excavating for the new Clinton Street Intercepter Sewer, broke into this old flume, and water backed from the river through the flume flooding the excavations. This condition was reliever only after raising the rollers at the Municipal Dam, which lowered the water level of the rivers. It must be borne in mind that the land on which this mill was located, has in recent years been filled to a depth of 8 or 10 feet with waste material and earth from excavations.

During the 31 years of this mill's existence, there were a number of changes in ownership. A little more than a year after the mill began operating, Mr. Robinson died and his interests were acquired by Hill and Williams, who, in turn, sold the business to James Howe. In the spring of 1852, Allen Hamilton and Jesse L. Williams purchased the plant and leased it to Reuben Fronefield. One year later, Robert T. Todd became a partner of Mr. Fronefield, doing business as Fronefield & Todd, who continued to operate the business until May 1, 1873. The machinery was afterward moved and the building vacated.

We have been unable to obtain information regarding the mill's equipment. The building was a two-and-one-half story frame building, which sat astride the mill race. The machinery, powered by re-action wheels, was purchased in Cleveland, Ohio, by Mr. Robinson.

XXXV. SUMMIT CITY WOOLEN MILLS

(French, Hanna & Co.)

Henry Rudisill, Sr., and Louis Wolke formed a partnership in the year 1843 and, during the same year, erected a four-story brick and stone building to be used as a flaxseed oil mill. The building, which was 45x44 feet in size, was located on Lot No. 9, County Addition to the City of Fort Wayne. The plant was on the south side of East Water Street (now Superior Street) between Barr and Lafayette Streets, on the north bank of the Wabash and Erie Canal, from whence the mill derived its power, by the use of an overshot wheel.

The original building with subsequent additions are the only water-powered mill buildings still standing in Allen County.

During 1844, the oil processing equipment was removed, and a carding machine installed, along with a set of cards and looms and auxiliary machinery. The firm was known as Henry Rudisill & Son.

Mr. Rudisill withdrew from the partnership in 1854 and Major Wolke became the sole owner of the business. There was no change in the firm name. He immediately added a steam engine to the plant's equipment but also continued the use of water power. Two years later (1856) a three-story addition of brick and stone was built to the south of the original building. With this addition the plant increased its force to 15 employees, maintaining 140 spindles.

Henry Rudisill, Sr., died in 1858 and the following year a partnership was formed composed of Henry Rudisill, Jr., R. Morgan French, and N. B. and M. B. Freeman, which continued under the firm name of Henry Rudisill & Son for two years (1861), when Mr. Rudisill and Messrs. Freeman retired, leaving Mr. French in control of the business, which he continued to operate until 1863, when Judge Samuel Hanna and his son, Willis, were admitted to the business. The firm was then known as French, Hanna & Co.

The year following this partnership, another building was added to the plant, closing the space north from the original building to Water Street, and about this time, O. W. Jefferds was also admitted as a partner. o

The Fort Wayne City Directory of 1868-69 lists the firm's business and products as "Manufacturers of and wholesale and retail dealers in cloth, tweeds, jeans, satinets, flannels, blankets and woolen yarn, also dealers in wool."

The plant's capacity had now been increased to 720 spindles, handling 600 pounds of wool in 24 hours, and employing a maximum of 60 people day and night. A two-story building 25x40 feet in size was acquired on the north side of Water Street opposite the plant, for storage purposes.

Major Louis Wolke, one of the original partners of the business, died November 1, 1873, at the age of 66 years. He came to Fort Wayne in 1836 and, during the interval, erected the Wolke Building on Calhoun Street, which stands to this day.

When the Nickel Plate Railroad was constructed through Fort Wayne, the line followed the right-of-way of the former Wabash and Erie Canal, resulting in the cutting off of water power to French, Hanna & Co., and other concerns along the canal. A suit for damages was instituted, which reached the U. S. District Court at Indianapolis on November 1, 1883. Five years later, a receiver was appointed for the company and shortly thereafter the business was closed.

The Summit City Woolen Mills' buildings have for years been used for warehouse purposes, and only recently have the outer walls been refinished and some improvements provided.

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